NOTICE

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WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD181640 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Weekly "International Observers' Roundtable" program with all-union radio commentator Gennadiy Ariyevich, TASS political observer Yevgeniy Babenko and PRAVDA observer Yuriy Glukhov]

Supreme Soviet Elections

[Text] [Ariyevich] Hello, comrades. As the USSR Supreme Soviet election campaign spreads more widely, the voters, meeting with their candidates to the highest organ of people's power, approve the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and underscore the aspiration of the Soviet people to strengthen the power of our country, a bastion of peace. The practical activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state in the international arena is directed toward achieving the main goal of disarmament and curbing the arms race. Representatives of the Soviet Union are taking an active part in talks being held in Vienna, where the question of limiting armed forces and armaments in central Europe is being discussed; in Geneva, where the Disarmament Committee has convened; and also the continuing Soviet-U.S. talks on the limitation of strategic offensive arms, SALT-II. The peace-loving course of our country is directed toward the exclusion of war from the life of mankind and is winning more and more supporters all over the world. On the other hand, however, it is causing increasingly fierce opposition on the part of the enemies of peace, those for whom war, or at least its threat, is a necessary instrument of politics, a means of achieving their unseemly mercenary goals. China appeared in this camp a long time ago. Having now trampled on the most elementary principles of international relations, it has displayed open aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. By this very fact, the ruling circles in Beijing, the Vietnamese Government announcement states, have come out against the entire socialist system and against the movement of national independence, and are undermining peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the whole world. This is an insolent challenge to all people who hold dear peace and justice.

PRC Invasion of Vietnam

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1230 GMT on 18 Feb rebroadcast the "International Observers' Roundtable" with the following previously omitted passage: "Our correspondents report that the people of Vietnam have reacted with anger and indignation to the intrusion by Chinese Armed Forces into the northern provinces of the country. With new force, the sacred call of the leader of the Vietnamese revolution, Ho Chi Minh, has sounded throughout the country: There is nothing more precious than independence and freedom! In the party committees, the state and government institutions of the republic, thousands of letters are being received which express the unswerving determination of the Vietnamese to defend their socialist homeland and deal a worthy rebuff to the high-handed aggressors. Beijing's armed aggression against Vietnam has aroused indignation all over the world. All the workers of Dynamo works, Moscow, learned with indignation of the dastardly attack of the Chinese invaders against the peaceful towns and villages of Vietnam. A craftsman of the works, veteran of the Great Patriotic War (Georgiy Viktorovich Lapukhin) told our correspondent: This is blatant aggression against a peaceful people. We all condemn it. All Soviet people are on the side of the Vietnamese. This attack threatens not only the Vietnamese people, but world peace as well. The intrusion of the Beijing militarists into the territory of the SRV, the Bulgarian newspaper RABOTNICHESKO DELO notes today in an editorial, is a gross, cynical act that can only be compared with the most shameful anti-human actions of imperialism and colonialism. The aggressive war which China has started against Vietnam is a convincing confirmation that the smile diplomacy of the Beijing emissaries, who have been visiting Western countries with the aim of obtaining for China large deliveries of modern arms, serves their aggressive, hegemonistic aims."]

French Foreign Minister's Visit

Speaking at the luncheon in honour of the French foreign minister, Jean Francois-Poncet, who was on an official visit to Moscow from 11 to 13 February, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, the Soviet minister of foreign affairs, said: We made our irrevocable choice in international affairs a long time ago, in the time of Lenin. This choice is in favor of peace, disarmament, peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems and noninterference in the internal affairs of nations. The Soviet Union devotes great attention to the development of relations with the countries of Western Europe in the interests of the relaxation of tension and the consolidation of European security. There was a not-inconsiderable confirmation of this last week, is that not so, Yevgeniy Timofeyevich? I am addressing this question to one of the participants in today's roundtable, Yevgeniy Babenko, political observer of TASS:

[Babenko] Yes, and Europe can rightly be called the first laboratory of its kind in which during the last few decades the policy of the effective relaxation of international tension has been worked out and tried in practice.

The painstaking and labor-consuming work of improving the political climate in the relations between states with different social systems and the gradual raising of the level of trust and mutual understanding between states and nations has been carried out and is continuing.

As far as European affairs are concerned, I would like to note that, thanks to this active and positive peace-loving policy of the USSR and other fraternal socialist states, the very term "detente" has entered into what is called the flesh and blood of the contemporary international political vocabulary, and so firmly that this term has begun to be used, admittedly to their own mercenary ends, even by the NATO strategists. Not so long ago I had occasion to report from the NATO headquarters in Evere near Brussels on the winter session of the NATO Council, the highest organ of the Western states' military-political bloc, and it was striking that several foreign journalists accredited to NATO raised their eyebrows in bewilderment when they acquainted themselves in the press center with the newly received--so to say, still warm--final documents of the winter Atlantic week. In many places in the final communique of the NATO council session were the terms "detente," "security" and "cooperation," and if any not-very-inquisitive person had glanced at just the preamble of the document, he would have guessed that it was material from an almost-peace-loving organization. Nevertheless, it is all completely logical: The jargon of the cold war has once and for all gone out of fashion in both European and world politics.

[Ariyevich] And the credit for this undoubtedly belongs primarily to the joint efforts of the socialist countries. In his interview to the U.S. TIME magazine, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev expressed the conviction that neighborliness, regardless of differences in political systems and views, is the best line in interstate relations. In its long and extensive historical experience, Europe has assured itself of the absolute truth of this thought. Today detente is real. Moreover, it dominates international relations, and in this a large role belongs to Soviet-French cooperation. It can now be noted with satisfaction that good, peaceful relations have taken shape between the Soviet Union and practically all the Western European states.

But we're talking about Soviet-French relations as an example of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. As long ago as the mid-60's, cooperation between our countries got off to a good start under the flag of the struggle for international detente.

[Glukhov] This was also confirmed during the recent visit to Moscow of the French foreign minister, Jean Francois-Poncet.

[Ariyevich] Our new speaker is PRAVDA observer Yuriy Glukhov. Please continue, Yuriy Vasiliyevich.

[Glukhov] I'd like to say that the joint communique on the visit stressed that the Soviet Union and France intend to do all in their power for the progress of international detente. Both sides came out in favor of realizing all points of the Final Act of the European conference, and for strengthening trust and cooperation among all the states which signed it.

[Babenko] The Paris paper COURIER DE POLITIQUE ETRANGERE emphasized in a recent issue, and I quote, that Soviet-French political cooperation played a paramount role in preparing for the historic Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and in holding it successfully. Today, considerable scope exists for further active cooperation between our two countries in the political sphere; and one of the most important fields of such cooperation is the practical implementation of the provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki conference, which bears the signatures of France, the USSR and 33 other states. Very important, too, are the joint efforts of our countries in the sphere of disarmament. The same COURIER DE POLITIQUE ETRANGERE has noted that the fact that France has, for the first time in many years, joined in the work of the Disarmament Committee in Geneva, has been welcomed in the Soviet Union.

[Ariyevich] During the visit to our country of Jean Francois-Poncet it was noted that the Soviet Union and France have come a long way in developing their relations. At the same time, Comrade Gromyko indicated when receiving the French minister that neither the Soviet nor the French side believes that the limit has been reached in those relations. Life shows that there is a mutual political will not to be content with what has been achieved. And the importance of this factor of the will to cooperate--especially on the part of statesmen standing at the helm of their countries' policies--is very great.

[Babenko] Quite right. And there has been, is and will be a great deal of discussion in Paris now on the great positive influence on the climate of Soviet-French relations--and, more widely, on the entire political climate of Europe--of the joint declaration on international detente signed by the leaders of the Soviet Union and France at Ramboullet in 1977. And during the visit of Jean Francois-Poncet to Moscow, special attention was paid to preparations for talks between Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who will be visiting our country at the end of March. Both sides expressed the conviction that this next Soviet-French summit meeting will undoubtedly be a significant new contribution to the further development of fruitful cooperation between our states. We know that on many problems of present-day international politics the positions of Moscow and Paris are close; and each new bilateral meeting at the summit level serves to promote the further rapprochement of views and to strengthen the trust so necessary for the constant progressive development of fruitful cooperation between states in all spheres.

Spanish Foreign Minister's Visit

[Ariyevich] I think it's appropriate to recall here, too, some other important milestones in the establishment of peaceful and constructive relations among states on the continent of Europe. One can rightly include in their number the fruitful visit of the Spanish foreign minister, Oreja, to the USSR in January. It was the first time in the entire history of Russian-Spanish mutual relations that a Spanish statesman of such rank had officially visited our country.

[Babenko] Yes, that is so. And, above all, both sides confirmed, nearly 2 years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Spain, that bilateral contacts have begun to run their normal course, with a great amount of work still to be done in expanding Soviet-Spanish cooperation wherever it is in the interests of both states to do so. And there are many such fields, the more so since the political will to broaden that cooperation has been clearly manifested by both Moscow and Madrid.

Gromyko's Rome Visit

[Glukhov] Among these milestones in the widening of cooperation we may most certainly include Comrade Gromyko's recent visit to Rome, the main feature of which was the clearly expressed and firm adherence of the Soviet Union and Italy to the policy of detente, and the no less clearly declared mutual determination to carry that process further. Both sides consider it necessary to undertake practical steps toward solving the most important task of our time: Stopping the arms race.

[Ariyevich] Thus, the main thing in European politics at the present time is to create in practice a system of effective security--to implement the program of military detente proposed by the member states of the Warsaw Treaty.

According to the assertions of Western propaganda, detente is being undermined and the established balance of power disturbed by the national liberation movements and the people's revolutions. But how can detente be harmed by the anti-imperialist struggle, as a result of which the peoples themselves, and not the military-political complex of imperialism, determine the paths of development?

Events in Iran

Take the recent events in Iran. They have marked a new stage in the anti-imperialist, antimonarchical struggle. The masses of the Iranian people have put an end to the dual power that became established in the country after the flight of the shah and the return of the leader of the politico-religious opposition, Khomeyni. The overthrow of the government of the shah's placeman, Bakhtiar, and the coming to power of a provisional government under Bazargan; the dissolution of the lower house of parliament, the Majlis; the army units' transfer of allegiance to the side of the revolution--all this testifies to the complete collapse of the monarchical system. Yuriy Vasiliyevich, what can we say about the present situation in Iran following these tempestuous and dramatic events?

[Glukhov] On the whole, the situation is gradually returning to normal. Central organs of administration are being set up; the composition of the Provisional Government has been announced, and it includes prominent Iranian public and political figures. Already at the first session of the government, the question of restoring the normal work of state institutions, industrial enterprises, shops and educational establishments was discussed. Major changes were made in the high command of the Iranian Army, the police and gendarmerie. The commanders in chief of all arms of the services were removed from their posts, as well as the divisional commanders. According to news agency reports, there are more than 20 generals among those arrested. A purge of government departments is being carried out. A large role in bringing the life of the country back to normal is being played by the local organs of self-government set up in the course of the revolution, such as street and house committees and volunteer squads.

[Ariyevich] The new power in Iran has already received wide international recognition. The congratulatory telegram from the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, to Bazargan noted that the Soviet Union declares its recognition of the Provisional Government of Iran, and expresses willingness to maintain and develop relations between our two countries on the basis of the principles of equality, neighbourliness, respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

The provisional revolutionary government has already been recognized by many of the world's countries. Some states, in particular the United States, have expressed readiness to maintain relations with Iran's new government.

[Babenko] Gennadiy Mikhaylovich, I would like to remark here that major Western European powers have also hastened to recognize Bazargan's Provisional Government. One may assume that this fact of recognition reflects a striving to take account of the merited lesson which the State Department and the White House learned during the Iranian events.

[Ariyevich] Yes, I agree with you. After underestimating for a long time the influence of Ayatollah Khomeyni, the West is now attempting to rectify its errors. American diplomats have in particular been directed by every means to establish contacts with the Khomeyni and Bazargan circles.

At the present time favorable preconditions have arisen in Iran for implementing a program for the democratization of the country and for ridding it of foreign interference. Is that not so?

[Glukhov] Yes. After all, Iran has to solve many problems inherited from the shah's regime. The country, which possesses enormous natural wealth and receives from the export of oil alone over $20 billion annually, has been running its budget with a colossal deficit--last year it was in excess of $5 billion. Whereas in the recent past Iran almost totally satisfied its requirements for foodstuffs, it is now forced to import over 60 percent of the produce required. Military expenditure has also been an excessive burden on the country. By the mid-seventies it has reached $10 billion annually. There was insufficient money for the people's needs, but the punitive organs were generously financed, especially SAVAK, the secret security service. In 10 years its budget rose over a thousandfold. I would like in this connection to cite the words of Khomeyni, leader of the Iranian movement: Our culture, our economy and our agriculture, he said, are totally destroyed and paralyzed. For this reason a paramount task will be the revival of agriculture and the continuation of industrialization. According to what he has said, a future government has to decide whether property in the country will be owned privately or by the whole people, and this matter must be decided in the interests of the majority of the people. He noted the impermissibility of the existence of the property gulf which now divides the different strata of Iran's population. Khomeyni has said that the republic's cabinet should not include religious figures, but that all the country's religious minorities will be represented in parliament. All the agreements concluded in the shah's time should be reconsidered from the viewpoint of whether they accord with the interests of the people.

[Ariyevich] However, the imperialist circles for whom Iran has served as a supplier of oil, an arms market and a gendarme in the Persian Gulf have not calmed down. Reaction and the imperialist circles would like to undermine the process of stabilization of the new authority. Former members of SAVAK, the shah's secret police, and monarchist elements are still taking up arms. An obvious provocation was the seizure as hostages of the ambassador and some staff members of the U.S. Embassy in Iran.

Some persons clearly wanted to provoke open imperialist interference in Iranian affairs.

[Glukhov] Iran's enemies are trying to get the army to oppose the people and to split the broad movement which has overthrown the shah's throne. As is well known, the most varied groups and strata of the population are taking part in this movement. Khomeyni, the leader of the opposition, is a very prominent religious figure. Bazargan, the head of the government, and Sanjabi, the minister of foreign affairs, are representatives of the National Front, an organization which played an important role in the nationalization of Iran's oil in the fifties during the period when Prime Minister Mossadeq was in power. Other political organizations, including the Tudeh People's Party of Iran, are also taking part in the movement. The party has declared its support for Khomeyni since his program is of an anti-imperialist, antimonarchical and, at present, democratic character.

At present, a message of the Tudeh Party Central Committee notes, the unity and cohesion of all Iran's political forces, who have been struggling for victory, and the good organization of all armed detachments of the people are of paramount importance. It is only in this fashion that it is possible to foil new conspiracies by imperialism and its underlings and to create the conditions for the provisional people's revolutionary government to be able to implement the aspirations of the people and carry out its set tasks.

[Babenko] Undoubtedly the Iranian revolution is now going through a very difficult period. But one can already say that the lessons of Iranian events are of historic importance. An alliance of all genuine opposition forces, irrespective of differences on social, political and religious questions, is capable of developing a force of political pressure which overturns all the calculations of reaction. The role of religious leaders and religious attitudes in Iranian events will for a long time yet be an object of concentrated attention and lively debate. But, whatever the case, the cooperation between the religious and the secular flanks of the opposition and the mass nature of the revolutionary movement helped to neutralize the army, and that means avoiding the bloodshed and destruction which civil war entails.

[Glukhov] I would like to stress that the stream of the popular movement washed away all the obstacles which the monarchy and reactionary imperialist circles attempted to put up. Over the past year there were four changes of government in Iran, the shah was forced to flee, the Regency Council proved to be stillborn, and General Huyser, deputy commander of U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, who was in Tehran for over a month, did not succeed either. The Iranian events showed that it is impossible to stop the hands of the clock and to preserve an anachronistic and antipeople form of government, even by using the most up-to-date weapons and the most well-trained specialists from abroad and having the support of the most powerful imperialist powers.

[Ariyevich] One must say that American strategists are now looking at many things through the prism of the events in Iran. The alarm is being sounded in Washington. The New York TIMES writes about the destabilizing effect of the Iranian crisis.

[Babenko] You know, destabilization is purely Washington's term. In reality it is a matter of the Iranian people's refusal to follow in the wake of U.S. militarist policy and its striving to be in charge of its own destiny.

[Ariyevich] Of course.

[Glukhov] Yes, it is a matter of a clash between the national interests of Iran and the strategic calculations of imperialism. Iran was regarded as one of the main participants of the CENTO bloc, but the Iranians have unambiguously stated that they are in favor of leaving the bloc. Iran was regarded as a raw materials appendage of the capitalist countries, and as a supplier of oil for racist and antipeople regimes such as the Republic of South Africa and Israel.

Pretoria received from Iran 90 percent and Israel 60 percent of the oil they needed. Now the Iranians are refusing to supply the Israeli aggressors and the South African racists. Iran was cast in the role of gendarme in the Persian Gulf area, the role of imperialism's assistant. Iranian troops had already been sent to put down a popular uprising in Dhofar. But now the Iranians are striving to put an end to this sombre and shameful past.

Secretary Brown's Mideast Visit

[Babenko] I think it would be appropriate here to quote the New York TIMES. A few days ago the newspaper wrote: Whereas 6 months ago the United States had two strong military allies in the area--Iran and Israel--now there is only Israel.

[Ariyevich] Yes, the weakening of the imperialist positions is worrying Washington, and in order to stop up the breach which formed in connection with Iran's apostacy, as they call it, the United States is resorting to a whole arsenal of measures; Pressure on allies and attempts to string together a new military bloc. It is from this standpoint apparently that one should regard the trip by U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown to a number of Near East countries.

[Glukhov] Of course. It will be recalled that during his tour Brown visited Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt. The American press made no secret of the aims of the Pentagon chief's trip: On-the-spot reconnaissance and assessment of the change in the situation in this strategically important area. In connection with the curtailment of military supplies to Iran, Brown was also acting as a commercial traveller for the monopolies which trade in arms.

In Riyadh he had talks on expanding the arms market by supplying Sudan and North Yemen, and the cost of such arms, approximately $360 million, would have to be met by Saudi Arabia. And it was suggested to Riyadh that it also pay Egypt's bills. However, the main aim of Brown's mission was to sound out the possibility of stringing together a new bloc. AFP, citing circles close to the U.S. Defense Department, reports, and I quote, on plans to set up a Middle East [srednevostochnyy] axis of pro-Western moderate countries which, to the extent of their possibilities, would compensate militarily for Iran's apostacy: They are trying to draw Saudi Arabia, which the Pentagon intends to prop up with its might, into this strung-together bloc. In this connection among the questions discussed by Brown in Riyadh was the forming of a mobile group of American paratroopers and Marines for use in the event of a request for aid by the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf.

Israeli-Egyptian Talks

[Babenko] However, if one goes by the plans which have been mentioned, the most reliable elements of this axis would be Israel and Egypt. Is that not so? And in this connection the forcing through the talks between them on formulating a separate deal is envisaged.

[Ariyevich] I would like to remind you that the resumption of the American-Egyptian-Israeli talks on the conclusion of a separate peace treaty is scheduled for 21 February. This meeting has already received the name "little Camp David." As is known, last year a summit which formulated the foundations for the separate understandings between Cairo and Tel Aviv was held at the same Camp David under U.S. aegis. It was on the basis of these understandings that the corresponding peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was drawn up. However, its signing, which was planned for December of last year, did not take place. It was foiled by the opposition of the Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. The pan-Arab summit conference in Baghdad called for counter-measures to be taken against As-Sadat's capitulationary course. As a result Cairo did not dare to put its signature unconditionally on the documents which had already been prepared.

Yuriy Vasilyevich, in your opinion what is the situation now?

[Glukhov] In the words of U.S. President Carter, 95 percent of the questions between Egypt and Tel Aviv have already been agreed on and there remain only 5 percent to be settled. Consequently, Cairo has used the period since then for maneuvering. Attempts have been made to impart to the Egyptian-Israeli deal the character of a stage-by-stage settlement of Near East problems. Stipulations were put forward concerning the linkage of the Egyptian-Israeli settlement with the granting of autonomy to the Palestinians. However, in essence they changed nothing. It will be recalled that during the 6-day war of 1967 Israel occupied an area of more than 60,000 sq. km. of Arab lands.

Among them are the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank of the River Jordan, the Gaza Strip, the eastern part of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. But the Egyptian-Israeli version of the peace treaty provides for the liberation only of the Sinai, and that with restrictions on Egypt's exercise of sovereignty. As for the fate of other Arab territories, the Israeli occupation there is in fact being consolidated.

[Babenko] Let us also recall that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty provides for the priority of its provisions over any other of Egypt's treaty obligations. Consequently, Cairo's desertion from the pan-Arab ranks is consolidated.

[Glukhov] The Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the creation of their own state is also being buried in oblivion; the Palestinians are granted merely restricted autonomy.

[Ariyevich] Yes, but recently the Western press has been praising to the skies Dayan's statement that the Palestinians can no longer be ignored. What do you think? Does this signify a change toward realism in the Israeli position?

[Glukhov] In reply I want to quote the French newspaper LES ECHOS; Dayan's statement, it writes, should be regarded in the perspective of the resumption of the Israeli-Egyptian talks at Camp David. The United States requested Israel to make a gesture to unblock the talks. Dayan, to all appearances, obeyed. Let us note that Dayan's gesture, like similar attempts by Cairo, is designed to find among the Palestinians conciliatory people who are ready to abandon their right to self-determination. Incidentally, Begin himself has already rejected the idea of any changes in Israel's position. At the same time, an Israeli government commission has already drawn up the foundations for Palestinian autonomy. The Israeli Army, the document says, will be the source of the autonomy authority.

[Ariyevich] In short, the content of the Camp David talks, as before, is far from the interests of the Arab countries, and the interests of the establishment of peace in that area. In attempting to realize dangerous plans, the United States intimidates some people with the communist danger and the threat of the Iranian events and tempts others with sops.

[Glukhov] Yes, and it is precisely with this bait that they are trying to catch Egypt once more and for all. The American administration has asked Congress to allocate Cairo $750 million for the next fiscal year. At the same time, however, $2 billion is being lavished on Tel Aviv. In the alliance of the Arab reactionaries and the Israeli brasshats which is being hatched by American imperialism, Tel Aviv is being allotted, as before, the role of the leader and strikes.

[Ariyevich] Such a course clearly is an anachronism, particularly dangerous for such an area as the Near East whose peoples have long been in need of detente and real and just peace.

COMMENTARY, REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN CONTINUES

Iran Severs Relations With Israel

LD182054 Moscow TASS in English 1936 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 18, TASS--The revolutionary authorities of Iran passed a decision to sever all relations with Israel, announced the Voice of the Iranian Revolution radio station. The offices of the Israeli airlines El-Al in Tehran have been closed, and all Israeli representatives have been asked to leave the country.

U.S. Recognizes New Government

LD161934 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 16 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Washington, February 16, TASS--The United States has officially recognised the new Government of Iran. It was announced today by a State Department spokesman that the United States ambassador in Tehran had officially informed the government of Mehdi Bazargan that the United States intended to preserve diplomatic relations with that government.

Airlift of U.S. Citizens

LD161314 Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 16 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 16, TASS--An evacuation of U.S. citizens from Iran began. A Boeing-707 of the Pan-American World Airways Company, with 167 passengers--staff members of the company and other U.S. citizens on board left Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport for Frankfurt on Main at noon today. The main operations to evacuate Americans from Iran are to begin on Saturday, February 17. As is reported, the U.S. Government intends to evacuate five thousand out of seven thousand American citizens who are now in Iran.

On the orders of the Provisional Government of Iran, Mehrabad airport is heavily guarded by military units loyal to the government in order to prevent an outbreak of unrest.

Official Steps Taken

LD191444 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 19 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 19, TASS--Life in Iran is gradually returning to normal. Most of the ministers have already been appointed. Many of the ministries have started work. The latest appointments are linked with measures to ensure an effective control over the economy. 'Abbas Taj has become the energy minister, 'Ali Mohammad Izadi--the agriculture minister, Reza Sadr--the trade minister, Yadollah Sahabi--the minister of state for revolutionary affairs. Hassan Nazih now heads the Iranian National Petroleum Company.

The purge of state institutions and agencies of persons who have compromised themselves under the shah regime, and also of SAVAK agents and their collaborators, is continuing. The arrest of J. Sa'id, former chairman of the Majlis, was announced today.

The government is solving also other important questions linked with the country's life, such as suppression of counterrevolutionary actions, restoration of law and order, resumption of the work of industry, transport and communications. A General Staff of the Iranian National Army has been formed, charged with all questions linked with the creation of new armed forces.

The special commission to study the large number of captured documents of the shah secret police (SAVAK) is continuing its work. The commission, it is pointed out by the newspaper ETTELAAT, has found new evidence of the shah secret service's close cooperation with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States and the Israeli "Mossad" intelligence. Lists of SAVAK agents and informers have also been discovered by the authorities.

The National Front of Iran has moved to form collective administration bodies on the spot, which will remain in power through the entire transition period, until the new state structure of the country is endorsed. At the same time one of the front's commissions addressed an open letter to the leader of this organization, Foreign Minister K. Sanjabi, pointing to the need of enlarging the social basis of the Provisional Government, including in it of representatives of all the active revolutionary forces of the country. The letter, published by the newspaper AYANDEGAN, stresses the impermissibility of dragging out a practical implementation of the program of revolutionary transformations.

A mass meeting of workers and employees took place at the Esfahan iron and steel plant. A provisional management committee, headed by the former chief mechanic of the complex, has been formed instead of the previous management. The meeting stressed that in connection with the revolution's victory, new relationships should be established between the workers and management of the plant, based on equality and due account for the workers views.

Commenting on the events in the country, the newspaper AYANDEGAN says that the people's revolution in the country is far from over yet. The most dangerous enemy of the revolutionary people is not so much the overthrown despotic shah regime. Imperialism, which still does not intend to give up its positions in Iran, can be qualified most definitely as enemy number one. The newspaper ranks among the enemies of the Iranian revolution also the so-called "liberals", who are endeavouring to substitute superficial revolutionary reforms under revolutionary slogans for deep-going revolutionary transformations.

Having officially announced the rupturing of all relations with Israel, the Provisional Government has ousted from the country about 70 officials of different Israel missions in Iran. At the same time it has recalled all Iranian citizens from Israel. This step, it is stressed by the PARS news service, "puts an end to all illegal overt and covert ties between the previous Iranian regime and Israel". The agency notes that one of the mainstays of the foreign policy of the new government is support of the just struggle waged by the Arab people of Palestine for the restoration of their lawful national rights. [Moscow TASS in English at 0903 GMT on 17 February reports the following: "Prime Minister Bazargan appointed another two members of the Provisional Government of Iran. Ali Goli Ardalan became the minister of the economy and finance, and Mobasheri--the minister of justice. General Shahpur Azarbazin was appointed the new commander of the air force."]

Gromyko Greets Sanjabi

LD151142 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 15, TASS--Andrey Gromyko, the foreign minister of the USSR, sent a telegram to Karim Sanjabi, conveying congratulations and best wishes on his appointment as minister of foreign affairs of the Provisional Government of Iran. I believe, the message says, that the friendly relations and mutually-advantageous cooperation between the USSR and Iran will be given all-round development for the good of the peoples of our countries, the cause of peace and international detente.

Iranian Ambassador Leaves Moscow

LD211036 Moscow TASS in English 1031 GMT 21 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 21, TASS-Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Ardalan left Moscow today.

Ayatollah Taleqani on USSR Ties

LD201950 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1542 GMT 20 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran--The paper TEHRAN JOURNAL reports that a group of members of the National Front has sent an open letter to the leader of this organization, K. Sanjabi, which states the need to form a "genuine government of national unity" in the country. The letter stresses that all revolutionary forces that fought to overthrow the shah's regime, including Marxists, must be represented in such a government.

The prominent Tehran religious-political figure Ayatollah Taleqani, who spoke at a press conference held here, touched on the matter of Iranian-Soviet relations. The Soviet Union, he said, comes out against international colonialism. Relations between Iran and the USSR, the ayatollah emphasized, must be good-neighborly. There must not be any lack of understanding between our countries.

Ovchinnikov 'Rejoinder' Hits CIA's Lies

LD201401 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[M. Ovchinnikov "Rejoinder" [replika]: "It It Worth Chirruping?"]

[Text] There is a wise parable about a half-frozen sparrow which suddenly finds itself buried under a cowpat; the sparrow thaws out, thrusts its head out and begins chirruping loudly (to its misfortune, however, because it immediately ends up in a cat's paws). The edifying meaning of this parable is this: If someone is trying to extricate themselves from a dunghill, is it worth their while chirruping while they are still sitting buried up to their neck in the heap?

It must be said that this moral could perfectly well be applied to "the Washington experts on Iran" from the relevant departments. "As recently as August," the Washington POST recalled not very long ago, "the CIA informed the White House in a 23-page top-secret report that there was no revolutionary or even prerevolutionary situation in Iran."

There can be no doubt that the heat of the popular uprising sent the authors of this report into a cold sweat after which they clearly found themselves in the same situation as the aforementioned sparrow. And, strictly in line with the subject of the parable, they had not had time to clamber out before they started chirruping. "The specialists in Washington," the Washington STAR proclaimed yesterday, echoing them, "believe that a number of partisan attacks against important locations in Iran, including the U.S. Embassy, attest that the Soviet Union has ordered its henchmen to try to overthrow the new government of Ayatollah Khomeyni."

If the Guinness "Book of Records" which is popular in the West were to record unsurpassed examples of impudent and absurd lies, this quotation would have a chance of finding its way into the pages of that book. But what will be left for the "Washington specialists on on Iran" to dream up tomorrow having found themselves, through fate, in such a maladorous milieu, to declare that the shah was a Kremlin agent who deliberately wrested weapons and advisers from the Pentagon in order to provoke anti-American sentiments in Iran?

Situation Normalizing

LD181852 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 18, TASS--As it takes measures for normalizing the situation in Iran, the Provisional Government is giving considerable attention to the neutralization of counter-revolutionary elements. In the last 24 hours 103 agents of the former SAVAK-imperial secret police, have been arrested, just as ten top military commanders of the shah's regime, it was officially announced. The arrested include the former war minister in the Bakhtiar government General Shafakat, the last chief of the imperial secret police-SAVAK, General Naser Moqaddam, the commander of the "Immortal Guards" General Neshat. Also arrested were more than 50 collaborators of the counter intelligence service and the Pahlavi Fund. More than 30 generals who occupied top positions under the shah's regime have been dismissed.

A conspiracy of proshah forces has been uncovered in the city of Bushehr on the Persian Gulf coast. Civil servants of the shah's administration in the city of Sari in Mazandaran Province have been arrested.

The Iranian radio, which last week announced the arrest of former Prime Minister Bakhtiar, today reported that he is actually hiding and that the government continues the search for him.

As to the shah, who is now in Morocco as a "guest" of King Hassan the Second, the Ayatollah Khomeyni demanded his extradition. If this demand is not complied with, he stressed, the shah will go on trial in absentia for the crimes he perpetrated against the Iranian people.

In its reorganization of the country's foreign-policy apparatus, the Foreign Ministry decided to recall more than 30 ambassadors, consul-generals and heads of Iranian missions at international organizations. These include Iranian ambassadors at the capitals of the largest states and also in the majority of Arab countries.

Life in Iran is gradually returning to normal. Hundreds of thousands of workers and employees who have been striking for the past few months on the appeal of the anti-shah opposition, have resumed work. According to an official spokesman of the Iranian National Oil Company, nearly all the oil workers have turned up for work. In the view of specialists Iran will be able to resume oil exports already within seven-ten days.

Barricades which had been thrown up in the main streets of Tehran in recent weeks, have been pulled down. Shops, banks, government institutions have opened. The city's transport system is operating. Studies have been resumed in the schools and institutions of higher learning.

The Voice of the Iranian Revolution radio reports the normalization of the situation in nearly all the provincial centres and major cities. A number of appointments were made to top commanding posts in the Iranian Armed Forces. Ahvadi Madani has been appointed the commander of the naval forces, Brigadier-General Kiumars Saqafi has been appointed the commander of the army's air force.

News agencies report that the head of the Provisional Government of Iran Mehdi Bazargan said in the interview that the question of the country's state system will be decided in a nation-wide referendum. It is planned to hold general elections in which members of all political parties, the communist included, will be able to take part. The main organizing centre of the anti-shah movement in Iran--the Khomeyni Committee--will be dissolved.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee, on a visit here, stated that the Iranian revolution struck a powerful blow at American imperialism and its stooges. "It caused shock in Israel and in the camps of imperialism and proved that no country can decide the affairs of another country and keep its people under the despotic oppression," he stressed.

In honour of the Palestine Arab people's heroic struggle for the restoration of its sovereign rights and the creation of an independent state of its own, one of the central streets in Tehran is named Palestine Liberation Organization Street.

Current Developments

LD172058 Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 17 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 17, TASS--"The Voice of the Iranian Revolution" radio station had broadcast a communique of Ayatollah Khomeyni's Information Committee, which stresses that the revolutionary authorities consider it their priority objective to purge the administrative apparatus of the country of persons who actively cooperated with the shah regime and who committed crimes against the people. No absolution, no indulgence, no condescension will be displayed towards officials of those organizations and institutions who till the last moment supported the old regime, the communique points out. A purge in the army is one of the most pressing objectives of the new Provisional Government and the Revolutionary Council of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Since on Friday about 5,000 revolutionary officers and men staged a one-hour and a half long demonstration outside Khomeyni's residence protesting against the appointment to top commanding posts in the armed forces of some generals who soiled their names by links with the previous regime. The Information Committee of Ayatollah Khomeyni explained that "those appointments were made immediately after the victory of the revolution in order to prevent actions of some antipopular elements and therefore they should not be considered final."

By the order, issued by the new chief of General Staff of the National Army, disbanded have been all crack guards units, who were implicitly loyal to the monarchy, including the shah "Immortal" Guards.

Three generals and 26 colonels were removed from their posts in the air force. General Sh. Azarbazin was appointed new commander of the air force.

The Extraordinary Revolutionary Tribunal is functioning in Tehran at Ayatollah Khomeyni's headquarters. By the tribunal's sentence, shot were two more high-placed henchmen of the shah regime--former governor-general of the Khorasan Province, Valian, and Member of Parliament Salaar Jar, who personally directed the suppression of actions of the Kurdish population against the shah.

The frontier forces of the country have been ordered to detain all those who try to go abroad to avoid punishment for their crimes.

The Government of Iran has requested all Persian Gulf countries to detain and to extradite to the Iranian authorities all former military leaders and statesmen of Iran, who possibly fled from the country.

The Provisional Government has ordered all banks of Iran to sequester the accounts of all persons and organisations linked with the shah regime.

The counter-revolution has not yet laid down arms and periodically arranges sallies. In the past two nights monarchists made simultaneous attacks on a number of targets, including a number of mosques, where arms of the revolutionary forces are kept, and barracks of military garrisons who have stood on guard of the revolution. These sallies have been a failure.

Despite the designs of enemies of the revolution, life in Iran is gradually returning to normalcy. At Khomeyni's call, state institutions, banks, industrial and trade enterprises today resumed their operation after a long strike, workers returned to oil-fields and oil refineries, public transport started functioning in towns, Iranian air company planes resumed flights in domestic lines, tickets are now being sold for train travels. Teachers gathered at educational establishments to prepare for resumption of classes on February 20.

The Tehran airport worked at an overload today because of mass departure from Iran of all sorts of American "advisers" and "specialists" and also citizens of a number of other Western countries which maintained close military-political relations with the shah regime.

At the same time the new Iranian Government also decided to send out of the country the Afghan citizens, who came to Iran several years ago in search of living. The Iranian Government made the decision on the ground that they have "no permission to work in Iran."

USSR 'Tendentious' Reporting Refuted

LD171604 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1443 GMT 17 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow--TASS political observer Sergey Kulik writes:

Should the reader unversed in politics flip through U.S. newspapers these days he would reach the conclusion, forced upon him by authors of ill conscience, that the guilt for the Iranian events and for all the unpleasantness suffered by Americans in that country recently lies with...the Soviet press.

Well, well. So it appears that neither the antipopular policy of the shah government, nor the Iranians' indignation over the fact that their country had been turned into a gendarme of U.S. imperialism in the Near East, were the cause of the revolution in Iran. According to the insinuations of bourgeois U.S. press, Iranians were agitated to go out on the streets and take the shah's palace by storm after reading articles published in Moscow and listening to Soviet radio broadcasts.

However, it is amazing that such insinuations addressed to the unsophisticated reader are used by official U.S. representatives who are fully versed and authoritative in politics.

And this is exactly what happened yesterday in Washington. Speaking at a press conference, U.S. State Department spokesman managed to accuse the Soviet press of "tendentious coverage of the U.S. role in Iran" and even to state that the statements made by Soviet papers and radio "cannot but influence the general climate" of detente (!?)

If there is concern about detente then, evidently, it would be appropriate for the State Department spokesman to react accordingly to the double-dyed anti-Soviet campaign that Mr Deng recently conducted in Washington while he was there as Washington's official guest. However, the U.S. side offered him totally unhindered opportunity to make instigatory statements having nothing in common with detente.

One can also remind the aforementioned State Department spokesman that the press freedom existing in the Soviet Union allows objective and thorough coverage of events taking place in a particular country. It is precisely while seeking to give a t h o r o u g h [TASS single spaces each letter in "thorough"] coverage to events (a coverage which as received a positive appraisal from the broad Iranian public) that the Soviet press has gathered and used information about events in Iran from varied sources, including U.S. ones. Insofar as we know these U.S. press reports, which rather eloquently described the interference of the United States, and in particular CIA interference, in Iran's internal affairs, did not give rise to objections of refutations by Washington officials.

INDOCHINA

USSR CONDEMNS PRC INVASION, STRESSES SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM

Soviet Government Statement

LD181419 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 18, TASS--Follows the text of the statement by the Soviet Government:

On February 17, China's Armed Forces invaded the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Beijing's aggression against Socialist Vietnam is a direct result of the policy of blackmail and pressure, which the Chinese authorities have pursued in the course of a number of years vis-a-vis Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular. The Beijing leaders openly declare that they want to "punish" Vietnam, which pursues an independent policy and has not only refused to assist Chinese expansion in Southeast Asia, but has also become a serious obstacle to the implementation of Beijing's hegemonic designs.

The Chinese ruling clique does not wish to reconcile itself to the fact that the people of Kampuchea has thrown off the bloody butcher regime of Pol Pot and restored friendly relations with neighbouring Vietnam. Using it as a pretext for aggression is a way, which as history shows, leads the aggressor to an inglorious, disgraceful end.

China's attack against Vietnam is added proof of Beijing's grossly irresponsible attitude to the destinies of peace, and of the criminal ease with which the Chinese leadership turns to arms.

The incursion of Chinese troops into Vietnam, which has only recently repelled foreign aggression, cannot leave indifferent a single honest person in the world, a single sovereign state. These aggressive action running counter to the principles of the United Nations Organization, crudely flouting international law expose for the whole world to see the real essence of Beijing's hegemonic policy in Southeast Asia. Any connivance with this policy is connivance with violence and diktat, connivance with the attempts of the Chinese leadership to plunge the world into war.

The attack against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has also shown the real worth of the verbiage by the Chinese leadership about the defence of the interests of small and medium states, for whose "protector" Beijing is trying to pose.

The heroic Vietnamese people, which has become victim of a fresh aggression, is capable of standing up for itself this time again, and furthermore [tem boleye chto: "the more so since"] it has reliable friends. The Soviet Union will honour its obligations under the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Those, who decide policy in Beijing, should stop before it is too late. The Chinese people, like other peoples, need peace and not war. All responsibility for the consequences of continuing the aggression by Beijing against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be borne by the present Chinese leadership.

The Soviet Union resolutely demands an end to the aggression and immediate withdrawal of the Chinese troops from the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Hands off Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Hands off Socialist Vietnam!

SRV Response to Invasion

LD171920 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 17 Feb 79 LD

["China's Attack Against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam"--TASS headline]

[Excerpt] Hanoi, February 17, TASS--A press conference was held at Vietnam's Foreign Ministry today, at which a start of aggressive actions by China against Vietnam was reported. Having massed a big military force, including artillery, China launched in the morning today, an offensive on the section of the border from Phong Tho in Lai Chau Province to Mong Kay in Quang Ninh Province. The attack was launched in a number of points. The Chinese Armed Forces invaded Lang Son Province for a distance of seven kilometers.

The Chinese artillery is shelling the town of Lao Kay in Hoang Lien Son Province and the town of Mong Kay in Quang Ninh Province. The Chinese Armed Forces captured a number of border communities. Fierce fighting is going on in all places. According to first reports, many Chinese soldiers have been destroyed. 13 Chinese tanks have been set on fire and destroyed. Near Batsat in Hoang Lien Son Province alone, 250 Chinese soldiers have been killed and four tanks set on fire.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam issued a statement exposing China's aggressive actions. It addressed a telegram to the president of the Security Council reporting on the start of the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and urging that appropriate measures be taken.

SRV UN Ambassador Condemns PRC

LD170630 Moscow TASS in English 0606 GMT 17 Feb 79 LD

[Text] New York, February 17, TASS--The Chinese authorities' provocative actions on the border of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) are arousing a deep concern among UN circles.

Ha Van Lau, permanent representative of the SRV at the United Nations, spoke at a press conference at the world body's headquarters. He once again drew attention to the dangerous character of that activity by Beijing to the cause of peace in Southeast Asia and throughout the world. He said that at present the Chinese authorities are stepping up military actions against Vietnam and increasingly aggravate the situation. In the course of 1978 the armed forces of the PRC invaded Vietnamese territory 583 times whereas this year in January and the first week of February alone not less than 230 such provocations were staged. The aggressive attacks assume an increasingly wide scope. Sometimes they involve several thousands of soldiers armed not only with small arms but with artillery, too.

Peking's actions, Ha Van Lau emphasized, defy the UN Charter and violate the elementary principles of international law. They once again confirm the great-power expansionist character of the Chinese leadership's policy.

Gromyko Meets With SRV Ambassador

LD181516 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Today Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister, received the ambassador of the SRV in the Soviet Union, Nguyen Huu Khieu. A talk was held which passed in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and full accord.

SRV Ambassador Meets Soviet Organizations

LD191950 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Feb 79 LD

[Text] There was a meeting today in the building of the Soviet Committee for Support of Vietnam between Nguyen Huu Khieu, SRV ambassador to the USSR, and representatives of Soviet public organizations--the Soviet Committee for support of Vietnam, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Afro-Asian Countries, and the Soviet Peace Committee. The representatives of the Soviet public resolutely condemned the aggression of the Chinese militarists against the heroic people of Socialist Vietnam, expressed feelings of fraternal solidarity and stated the full support of the Soviet people for the just struggle of the Vietnamese people. Nguyen Huu Khieu informed them of the determination of the Vietnamese people to repulse the aggression of the Chinese expansionists and defend the gains of the Vietnamese revolution. On behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the country's government and people, he expressed great gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government and the people for their consistent and resolute support for the just cause of the Vietnamese people.

Holds Moscow Press Conference

LD161320 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 16 Feb 79 LD

[Text) Moscow, February 16, TASS--A press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists was held today in Moscow, at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the USSR. Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the Soviet Union Nguyen Huu Khieu told the journalists about the constant provocative actions of the ruling circles of China all along the stretch of the Vietnamese border with the PRC. He said that relations between the two countries become ever more tense because of the hostile policy of the present Chinese leadership. The Chinese authorities stationed near the Vietnamese border 20 divisions, amassed hundreds of warplanes, vast quantities of tanks and other military equipment. The armed provocations have actually become continuous combat operations. The Beijing leaders are implementing purposefully the militant policy aimed at undermining peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese people, the ambassador stressed, invariably declare for peaceful settlement of differences between the two countries, but we are determined to uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland. In conclusion Nguyen Huu Khieu expressed gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government, the Soviet public for active support of the just cause of Vietnam. A documentary film about the situation at the Vietnamese-Chinese border was shown to the participants in the press conference.

Victor Louis: USSR Military Leave Cancelled

LD201101 London EVENING NEWS in English 19 Feb 79 P 2 LD

[Victor Louis Report: "Now Russia Puts Its Troops on Full Alert"]

[Text] Moscow--All leave for Russia's armed forces has been cancelled after China's invasion of Vietnam. It has not been officially stated that the forces have been given the order of "combat readiness number one." But this is understood to be the case because of the abruptness with which all leave has been cancelled and those on leave suddenly recalled. Russia's warning to China to stop her aggression "before it it too late" was announced in Moscow at a time when already anti-Chinese meetings were being held all over the country in support of Vietnam. Slogans displayed at the meetings are strangely familiar. "Hands off Vietnam" looks just the same as it did when addressed to the Americans. Soviet children have begun to shoot down Chinese in their "bang-your-dead" war games but more important is how the adult population will react.

Demonstrations Outside PRC Embassy

LD181202 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0910 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 18, (TANJUG)--Demonstrations took place in front of the Chinese Embassy in Moscow last night with demonstrators, largely young people, shouting anti-Chinese slogans such as "Down with China," "Down with Maoists" and "Out of Vietnam." Slogans about the Soviet-Vietnamese friendship were also heard shouted loudly.

The demonstrations started before midnight when, according to eyewitness accounts, about 700 thousand people gathered in front of the embassy. Carrying signs and shouting slogans, demonstrators stormed the embassy and other buildings in the block housing the Chinese colony in Moscow. About midnight, when this group of demonstrators dispersed, another came. This, according to eyewitnesses, also included Vietnamese citizens.

The embassy building was protected by a cordon of militiamen. Embassy personnel and other members of the Chinese colony watched the demonstrations from behind the closed windows. No incidents were reported. The second group of demonstrators dispersed after (?3 am). More demonstrations in front of the Chinese Embassy are expected today.

U.S. Had Advance Knowledge

LD181614 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 18 Feb 79 LD

[Text] New York--The New York TIMES has emphasized that China's attack on Vietnam came as no surprise to the United States. It writes that the United States was put in the picture with regard to Beijing's aggressive intentions by Deng Xiaoping during his recent sojourn in Washington. He told senators and journalists that Vietnam would have to be taught a bloody lesson. And what is more, the paper continues, referring to this high-ranking official, the U.S. intelligence services had information at their disposal which enabled them to reasonably accurately forecast the commencement of military actions.

Invasion a U.S.-PRC Ploy

OW192010 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 19 Feb 79 OW

[Glebov commentary]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists, who launched a war of aggression against Vietnam, suffered despicable defeat by the heroic people of Vietnam. The American people and people all over the world condemned this aggression. However the U.S. imperialists have not benefited from this lesson. They have not given up the conspiracy of subjugating the SRV, the bastion of socialism in Southeast Asia. Indeed, they have decided to involve their loyal vassals, that is, the renegades of socialism in China, in this dirty perpetration. Deng Xiaoping received appropriate instructions when he visited the United States not long ago. U.S. imperialism's propaganda machine has tried to create a (?crisis) while covering up their own acts of aggression by frantic clamorings and placing the blame on the SRV.

A number of facts prove that the aggression against Vietnam was planned and decided upon as early as when Brzezinski, U.S. presidential national security adviser, visited China. Details were finalized when Deng Xiaoping visited Washington. Political observers have pointed out that it was no accident that Deng Xiaoping lunched with Brzezinski immediately upon his arrival in the United States. As the Chinese troops began invading Vietnam, the Chinese NPC Standing Committee was meeting in Beijing to endorse the results of Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States, his collusion with the U.S. militarists and their decisions on invading Vietnam.

The people of the whole world have condemned China's aggression against the SRV. No fabrications by Beijing's propagandists can defend the crimes of the Chinese militarists, the loyal vassals of U.S. imperialism. The Beijing adventurists must be held responsible for the serious crimes of causing the Vietnamese people's unnecessary bloodshed and the Chinese fighters' unnecessary sacrifice of lives. The senselessness and criminality of the Beijing militarists' actions are obvious. Just imagine the extent and degree of flattering and currying favor with imperialism that was conducted in order to prompt this adventure which is obviously doomed to failure. Facing the most powerful imperialist country's invasion, the heroic Vietnamese people who [words indistinct] will certainly teach the imperialists' running dogs in Beijing a deserved lesson.

Truth and justice are on the side of the Vietnamese people. The Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and all of progressive mankind warmly sympathize with and support the Vietnamese people. The Soviet people and all justice-upholding people support and endorse the Soviet Government statement which says: The heroic Vietnamese people, which has become victim of a fresh aggression, is capable of standing up for itself this time again, all the more so since it has reliable friends. The Soviet Union will honor its obligations under the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the SRV. This statement emphatically says that the Beijing policymakers should stop before it is too late.

IZVESTIYA's Bovin on PRC Adventure

LD191518 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 19 Feb 79 LD

["The Vietnamese People Will Be Able to Defend Their Independence"--TASS headlines]

[Text] Moscow, February 19, TASS--"The Vietnamese people will be able to defend their freedom and independence; Socialist Vietnam has reliable friends; world opinion is on the side of Vietnam; and there is no doubt that an infamous and shameful end awaits the Chinese adventure," writes Aleksandr Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer.

"Over the past 10-15 years there has not been a single major act aimed at strengthening the peace and security of peoples which the Chinese leaders have not opposed," the author notes. "Beijing has energetically attacked the series of talks and agreements on normalizing the situation in the center of the European Continent. Beijing has criticized the Helsinki act, which opened up a way for construction of a peaceful Europe. Beijing has done everything possible to undermine the harmonization of Soviet-U.S. relations and to torpedo strategic arms limitations agreements. Beijing has resolutely refused to take part in any talks whatsoever on disarmament and has openly come out against relaxation of international tension."

"The Americans are now energetically emphasizing that they tried in every way to talk their Chinese friends out of large-scale military actions on the border with Vietnam," the observer continues. "Well, probably that is the way it was. For the Americans understood that a Chinese attack on Vietnam, especially immediately following Deng Xiaoping's visit, would put Washington, and all China's Western 'pacifiers,' in a very ambiguous and politically vulnerable position."

In conclusion, the IZVESTIYA observer points out: "The history of Maoist China has seen quite a few criminal acts against its own and neighboring peoples, quite a few 'ambushes' and 'blows against the others.' For some time they were attributed to the 'gang of four.' The present crime against peace and against socialism sooner or later will be added to the account of those determining the policy of post-Mao China by the Chinese people."

Kulik Refutes PRC Explanations

LD201252 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1147 GMT 20 Feb 79 LD

["Aggression Cannot Be Hidden by a Lie"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 20, TASS--TASS political observer Sergey Kulik writes:

Vainly trying to justify their aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Chinese leaders have begun to lie and dodge. Speaking in Beijing, Mr Deng maintained that what is going on on the border with the SRV is certainly not war but supposedly just a "limited self-defense action!?" All Beijing newspapers are full of items in which Vietnam is hypocritically presented as the "aggressor" while the Chinese troops' actions have been "forced" and are of a "defensive" nature.

In light of commonly known facts about the policy of blackmail and pressure, which the Chinese authorities practiced for a number of years with regard to Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular, such unsubstantiated assertions are nothing but a smokescreen to cover up the very real war unleashed by the PRC ruling circles against Vietnam. While cynically calling its bandit actions a "counterattack," Beijing, just as during the armed aggression against India in 1962, is striving to achieve expansionist aims in Asia.

Beijing gradually prepared for this war, provoking border conflicts with its southern neighbor even in those years when the heroic Vietnamese people were repelling U.S. aggression. In 1957-1977 Chinese ships intruded into Vietnamese territorial waters 1,500 times. The Chinese seizure in 1974 of the Paracel Islands, belonging to Vietnam, was a flagrant act of lawlessness.

The PRC's aggressive policy against the SRV has grown particularly more active of late. The Beijing leaders have stated openly that they want to "punish" Vietnam which is carrying out an independent policy and has not only refused to assist Chinese expansion in Southeast Asia but has even become a serious obstacle in the way of implementing Beijing's hegemonistic designs. In 1978 the Chinese side perpetrated 583 armed violations of Vietnam's territorial integrity, with 230 violations in January and the first week of February this year.

"Although the Chinese ruling circles have been stepping up their provocations and threats every day, the people and the Government of Vietnam have demonstrated maximum restraint in the name of peace and friendship and sought ways to find a solution to all issues in relations between the two countries by way of talks," the SRV Government statement of 17 February notes. "However, regardless of all arguments, they have continued to capture territory and unleash an aggressive war against Vietnam."

To this end Beijing has moved up about 20 Chinese divisions, hundreds of war planes and a considerable quantity of other military equipment to the border with the SRV. During January and February Chinese propaganda has distorted the picture as though this is a "positional war" [pozitsionnaya voyna] between China and Vietnam. So, an attempt has been made to prepare public opinion for the unfolding of hostilities against the SRV.

One can compare the crude and cynical aggression which the PRC has unleashed, in its inhuman aims and consequences, only with the ignominious crimes of imperialism and colonialism. In recent years the Beijing rulers have spoken much about their territorial claims in Southeast Asia. Now, having finally followed the old road of the Chinese feudal lords, imperialists and colonialists, they have switched from words to deeds.

The war against Vietnam, which has been started by the PRC shows that the Beijing Mandarins, to suit their sinister great-power plans, are prepared to carry out bandit attacks on any state in Southeast Asia under the pretext of "self-defense."

Beijing's diplomatic steps aimed at replacing the issue of Chinese aggression against Vietnam with the so-called Kampuchea problem should also be regarded as a diversionary maneuver. Events in the People's Republic of Kampuchea are the purely domestic affair of the Kampuchean people which has nothing in common with Chinese-Vietnamese relations:

Nor can the fact that the war against Socialist Vietnam was practically prepared by Beijing with Washington's tacit consent fail to evoke anxiety. As the New York TIMES asserts, the United States was informed about Beijing's aggressive intentions during the recent sojourn in Washington by Deng Xiaoping, who told the senators that Vietnam "had to be given a bloody lesson." The French newspaper LIBERATION writes: "There can be no doubt but that during the meeting with J. Carter, Deng Xiaoping informed the U.S. President about Chinese intentions to "punish" Vietnam. It is obvious that China would not have dared to take such a risk without obtaining U.S. guarantees beforehand..."

Thus, what we are talking about is not "self-defense" and not a "counterattack." What we are talking about is aggression against a socialist country which was gradually prepared by Beijing with the connivance of certain circles in the West.

Marshal Batitskiy Pledges USSR Support

LD201854 Moscow in Romanian to Romania 1600 GMT 20 Feb 79 LD

[Text] On 23 February every year the USSR celebrates Soviet Armed Forces Day. Here is Pavel Batitskiy, marshal of the USSR, to speak on the occasion:

[Batitskiy--begin recording in Russian, fading into Romanian translation] After the victory of the 1917 October Revolution, the armed defense of the revolution's gains became the main concern of the CPSU and Soviet state because the overthrown classes tried in every way possible and with the support of international imperialism to reestablish their domination and to destroy the state belong to the workers and peasants. To defend the revolution in 1918, a powerful army was formed. The imperialists' crusade against the Soviet people concentrated their efforts in the main orientation--building socialist society. But our enemies refused to give up hope of strangling the Soviet regime and on several occasions they organized armed provocations on the USSR's borders. In June 1941, Nazi Germany and her satellites began a perfidious attack on the USSR. No other state could have resisted such a blow. Along the entire thousands of kilometers of the Soviet-German front--a decisive front in World War II--unprecedented battles took place. The enemy was crushed. In May 1945, Soviet soldiers hoisted the flag of victory over the reichstag in Berlin. The Soviet Army, through its victory over Nazi Germany and militarist Japan, not only defended the liberty and independence of the homeland, but also liberated many countries enslaved by the fascists in Europe and Asia and saved world civilization.

(?Our) victory was an inevitable consequence of the strength of our socialist order. It showed the immense political, ethical and spiritual unity of Soviet society. History proved in a convincing way that any military adventures by the imperialist forces against socialism, inevitably leads to the defeat of the aggressor.

For 34 years the Soviet people have been devoted all their efforts to peaceful construction. In these years they have healed the wounds caused to the country by war, reconstructed the ruined economy and scored outstanding successes in socio-economic development and in raising the people's standard of living.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government are constantly making peaceful initiatives to strengthen detente, the security of peoples and international cooperation. Unfortunately, reactionary imperialist circles have once again complicated the international situation. Dangerous hotbeds of tension have appeared in a number of regions, and on 17 February Chinese troops invaded the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This aggression proves once again that Beijing's attitude is to defy peace and that it has recourse to force of arms with criminal ease. But as the statement of the Soviet Government points out, the heroic Vietnamese people are capable of defending themselves this time, too, all the more so since they have reliable friends. The USSR will fulfill her pledges made in the treaty of friendship between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Soviet Armed Forces, in fraternal cooperation with the armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty countries, are always combat ready in order to deal an immediate riposte to any aggressor. To that end they have all the necessary means. Nobody must doubt that the armed forces of the USSR will continue to be a reliable defender of the peaceful work of the Soviet people and that they will continue to support general peace. [end recording]

Socialist Countries Support SRV

LD192145 Moscow in Polish to Poland 1915 GMT 19 Feb 79 LD

[Georgiy Gramatchickov commentary]

[Text] World public opinion angrily condemns the aggression launched by the Chinese ruling circles against the SRV. Many millions of people throughout the world voice their decisive support for the just cause of the Vietnamese nation, which stands in defense of freedom of its fatherland. Our commentator Georgiy Gramatchickov writes:

It only seems like the very recent past when we celebrated with our Vietnamese friends their historic victory over an imperialist aggressor. And now, once again, Vietnamese soil is being trod on by the boots of unwelcomed guests. Right from the first few hours of the impudent attack of the Chinese Armed Forces against Vietnamese territory, it has been clear that Vietnam is not alone in its defense of the just cause. The debauched aggressor has not only been met by the resolute resistance of the Vietnamese patriots but also by a mighty wave of protests from the peaceful nations of our planet. Solidarity rallies are now being held in many countries of the world, and stormy protest demonstrations are taking place in front of Chinese embassies under the slogan "Hands Off Vietnam." Support for the peace-loving Vietnamese nation is being voiced by political and social activists and mass organizations. The press is also writing about it. The voice of the nations of socialist countries is impressive and unshaken. The socialist nations are convincingly demonstrating their faithfulness to internationalist duty vis-a-vis Vietnam.

The heroic Vietnamese nation, which has become the victim of a new aggression, in reading the statement of the Soviet Government, will manage to defend itself this time, too, all the more because it has reliable friends. The statement says that the Soviet Union will adhere to all pledges which it undertook within the framework of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

The Polish nation has angrily condemned Chinese aggression against Vietnam. In its statement, the Government of the People's Republic of Poland demands that China stop all aggressive actions, and expresses its total solidarity with the Vietnamese nation in its just struggle for national independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Identical statements have been issued by the governments of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Cuba, the GDR and other countries. In these documents the Chinese invasion is correctly described as a crime against peace and international security and as a challenge to all peace forces. The aggression against Vietnam, reads the statement of the CPCZ Central Committee and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, is a brutal infringement of the fundamental principles of international relations and the UN Charter. This aggression constitutes a grave threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and throughout the world.

The press of fraternal countries writes that the Chinese aggression has laid bare for the whole world to see the real meaning of Beijing's hegemonist policy in Southeast Asia. The aggression was well-planned in advance and had many far-reaching aims. It personifies a new threatening stage of the policy of blackmail and pressure used by Chinese leaders for many years against Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular. By undertaking aggression against Socialist Vietnam, which did not want to be dependent on Beijing's domination, the Chinese authorities are aiding imperialist reaction. PRAVDA states that Beijing counts on weakening the eastern corner of world socialism. But these plans are illusory, as the heroism and courage of the Vietnamese patriots, multiplied by the assistance and support of all their friends in the world, will without doubt thwart the plans of the Chinese leaders. The working people of the socialist countries fully share the conviction of the Vietnamese nation that, thanks to such support, it will defeat the aggressor, defend its sovereignty and independence and contribute to the cause of defense of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and all over the world.

Maoists Commit Atrocities, Loot

LD210632 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 21 Feb 79 LD

[Text] A PRAVDA correspondent reports from the Vietnamese town of Lang Son:

The Chinese units which invaded Vietnamese territory in this province to a distance of up to 10 kms were forced back on 20 February to a distance of up to 6 kms. The ring of encirclement around the town of Dong Dang has been broken. The enemy is suffering heavy losses. During defense fighting and counterattacks, 12 enemy batallions have been routed.

Here are some initial reports on atrocities committed by the Maoists in the border strip occupied by them: Near Dong Dang, flamethrowers have reduced three villages to ashes. Inhabitants who did not succeed in evacuating, including women, children and old men, were annihilated. Surviving witnesses said that the brutal Beijing soldiers drowned children in the marshes. The passengers on a regular bus which was seized on a road were shot.

The Chinese units are followed by hundreds of marauders from among civilians living on Chinese territory. They are taking trucks, the personal property of peasants, agricultural machines, grain and fertilizers belonging to the Vietnamese cooperatives; they dismantle enterprises and send the equipment to Chinese territory.

The heavy and bloody battles are continuing. During 3 days of battles the Vietnamese soldiers have been heroically repelling the blows of the enemy. Throughout the entire province, wherever possible normal production is continuing both in agriculture and industry. The peaceful population has been evacuated from danger zones and is being provided with shelter, food and medical services.

Huaqiao Assisting PRC Forces

LD200040 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 20 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] According to news agency reports, Huaqiao [Overseas Chinese] are taking part in the battles against Vietnam on the Chinese side, among the regular troops. They are dressed in uniforms of the Vietnamese People's Army and are acting as guides for the Chinese forces, particularly in mountainous areas. Chinese forces, particularly in mountainous areas. Chinese cavalry is operating in areas where access is difficult. The Chinese have seized the town of Dong Dang in Lang Son Province.

PRC Units Being Encircled

LD201904 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Our correspondent Leonid Krichevskiy reports from Hanoi:

There is nothing dearer than freedom and independence. This slogan of President Ho Chi Minh is resounding with new, full force now throughout Vietnam. In the streets and squares of Hanoi and other Vietnamese cities signs have been hung up with slogans reflecting the will and firm determination of the Vietnamese people to defend the independence of their homeland, again threatened by serious danger. We will rebuff the aggressors! We will smash the reactionary schemes of Beijing! Defend the socialist homeland!

In the morning, all newspapers are quickly sold out which print VNA reports on the course of military operations, diagrams and maps of the areas where the biggest battles are taking place. The inhabitants of Hanoi and the entire country are paying particular attention these days to the radio, which regularly broadcast news from the regions of the military operations on the border and frequently interrupts normal programming with these reports.

Today the central Hanoi papers published reports that the armed forces of the Vietnamese People's Army and troops of the self-defense and militia detachments have everywhere been giving crushing blows at the aggressors. As a result of vigorous action by the Vietnamese Armed Forces, many batallions of Chinese forces have been encircled. The aggressors' plan to cut the main highway and railroad have been foiled.

In the capital of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and other cities, meetings and manifestations are continuing. A mass meeting was held in the Hanoi Polytechnic Institute, one of Vietnam's biggest educational establishments. It took place under the slogan: All as one in defending the socialist fatherland! Those who spoke at the meeting noted that the struggle of the Vietnamese people against Chinese aggression enjoys the support and solidarity of the peoples of the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and all the progressive peoples of the world. As always, in times of severe trials the Vietnamese people are not alone in their struggle. They have alongside them tested and true friends in battle, primarily the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community.